

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, TH

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATION OF MISSION TO HANDLE EVACUEES AND REFUGEES  
TRANSITING THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 5854

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES THE ORGANIZATION OF A MISSION TASK FORCE IN BANGKOK TO FORMALIZE OUR PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS TO HANDLE SOME 1700 AMERICAN AND FOREIGN NATIONAL EVACUEES AND REFUGEES TRANSPORTED BY THE USG FROM CAMBODIA TO THAILAND BETWEEN APRIL 3 AND APRIL 14. OVERALL DIRECTION IS GIVEN BY THE CDA, OR IN HIS ABSENCE THE ADCM. OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM IS UNDER THE COUNSELOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND A NUMBER OF ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION ARE INVOLVED, AS WELL AS PERSONNEL EVACUATED FROM THE U.S. MISSION IN PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY

1. SCOPE AND NATURE OF OPERATION. PERSONS EVACUATED FROM PHNOM PENH TO THAILAND FALL GENERALLY INTO THREE CATEGORIES: AMERICANS, TCNS, AND KHMER. IN ROUND FIGURES THERE WERE ABOUT 1,100 KHMER, 300 TCNS, AND 250 AMERICANS. CURRENTLY THERE ARE ABOUT 900 KHMER REFUGEES LOCATED AT A CENTER AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL BASE AT UTAPAO. MANY OF THE TCNS HAVE DEPARTED  
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THAILAND OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DOING SO. AMERICANS

ALSO ARE BEGINNING TO MOVE ON. THE MAJOR PROBLEM CENTERS ON KHMER NATIONALS WHO AT PRESENT HAVE NO HOME TO RETURN TO, ARE IN MOST CASES UNDOCUMENTED AND IN NEED OF RESETTLEMENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. THESE ARE LOCATED IN THE CENTER AT UTAPAO.

2. ORGANIZATION OF MISSION. ALL KEY ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION ARE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND CARE OF THE EVACUEES OR IN LIAISON WITH THE RTG. DRAWING ON THESE ELEMENTS, WHICH PARTICIPATED IN HANDLING THE ARRIVAL OF THE REFUGEES, A TASK FORCE HAS BEEN FORMED, WHICH INCLUDES PERSONNEL FROM THE U.S. MISSION IN PHNOM PENH. OVERALL DIRECTION IS GIVEN BY THE CDA OR IN HIS ABSENCE BY THE ADCM. THE COUNSELOR OF ADMINISTRATION IS IN OPERATIONAL COMMAND. THE BULK OF THE WORKLOAD AT THE UTAPAO CAMP FALLS ON MACTHAI AND JCRC; AND IN BANGKOK ON THE CONSULAR SECTION, WHICH IS CONCERNED WITH IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL PROBLEMS; AND ON A TEAM ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION.

3. THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM. AS STATED ABOVE, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR IS IN OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE ENTIRE PROGRAM AND OF THE TASK FORCE ITSELF, THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO ASSIST HIM. THE PERSONNEL OFFICE AND PERSONNEL FROM PHNOM PENH HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE EFFORT.

4. CENTER AT UTAPAO. THE JCRC UNDER CONTROL OF MACTHAI HAS ESTABLISHED A TEMPORARY CAMP TO HOUSE AND FEED THE 900 KHMERS BEING MAINTAINED AT THE ROYAL THAI NAVAL BASE AT UTAPAO. THE OVERALL DIRECTION OF THE OPERATION IN UTAPAO IS UNDER AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO ACTS AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TASK FORCE AT THE CENTER. ASSISTING HIM ARE SEVEN OFFICERS, COMPOSED OF EMBASSY PEOPLE AND OFFICERS FROM PHNOM PENH, AS WELL AS LARGE NUMBERS OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. A JOINT US-THAI OFFICE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT UTAPAO IN WHICH THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THAI IMMIGRATION, THAI CUSTOMS, THAI PUBLIC HEALTH, THE RTNB COMMANDER, MACTHAI, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND U.S. MILITARY FORCES AT UTAPAO. THE CENTER IS AN EXCELLENT ONE WHICH PROVIDES ADEQUATE TEMPORARY SHELTER, FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPORT.

5. THE CONSULAR SECTION. THE CONSULAR SECTION HAS BEEN REINFORCED TO MEET THE HEAVY WORKLOAD PLACED UPON IT. EIGHT OFFICERS, INCLUDING THREE FROM PHNOM PENH, HAVE BEEN ADDED TO HELP

CARRY THE BURDEN OF PREPARATION OF LISTS, INTER-  
VIEWS, ETC. ALL AARE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
CONSUL, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE.  
MASTERS

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